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REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER

OF THE

GENERAL LAND OFFICE

OF THE

STATE OF TEXAS,

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31, 1890.

AUSTIN
STATE PRINTING OFFICE
1891

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REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
AUSTIN, TEXAS, September 1, 1890.

His Excellency L. S. Ross, Governor of Texas:

SIR—The following tables of exhibits show the operations of this department for the two years beginning September 1, 1888, and ending August 31, 1890. It has been my endeavor in the preparation of this Report to give a clear and exhaustive showing of the condition of the public lands and the transactions of this office in relation thereto.

Exhibit A shows the issue of 6577 patents covering 3,115,968 acres, as against 10,584 patents covering 7,580,356 acres for the two preceding years, and as against 13,700 patents covering 8,017,729 acres for the two years ending August 31, 1886. This decline in the number of patents issued must continue; and, as suggested in my report two years ago, it can not be expected that this department will ever be self-sustaining again, the patent fees being the chief source of revenue. It seems to be demanded by the Constitution that the expenses of this office should be confined within the limit of its receipts. This table, however, is enough to show that such a result is impossible without radical changes in the laws regulating and prescribing fees.

Exhibit B shows the issuance of but one certificate for 1280 acres, this being a special act certificate, and according to the terms of the law was made locatable upon any public domain of the State without regard to former laws reserving the same. By virtue of this certificate locations have been made upon islands heretofore reserved since the days of the Republic.

Exhibit C shows 7408 new returns, mainly pre-emptions and school lands.

Attention is specially called to Exhibit E, which shows the vast amount of domain devoted by the State to companies of public improvement. This exhibit shows the issuance to railroad companies of 60,322½ certificates for 640 acres each, besides 360½ sections surveyed for the Southern Pacific Railroad Company under the Act of January 30, 1854, which surveys were made without certificates, as authorized by said law. The total of this is 38,837,120 acres, or an area larger than the States of New York and New Jersey combined.

In addition to this, Exhibit F shows that 336 certificates of 320 acres each and 7845 certificates of 640 acres each, calling for 5,128,320 acres, were given by the State to other internal improvement companies, such as irrigation ditches, improvement of streams for navigation, etc.

Exhibit G shows that of all the certificates issued to the railroad companies 6134½ certificates, calling for 3,926,080 acres, were lost to the owners by failure to return same with field notes to the General Land Office within five years from the date of issuance. Of certificates issued to improvement companies there were barred in the same way certificates calling for 141,760 acres.

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Thus it will be seen that the constitutional limitation requiring certificates to be returned to the General Land Office within five years from the date of issuance or be forever barred has resulted since 1876 in the cancellation of certificates which otherwise might have been applied to more than four million acres of land. When these certificates were issued ample vacant land remained to provide for them, but the existence or passage of laws reserving said land prevented their location, consequently they died in the hands of the owners.

It is with some little pride that I call your attention to Exhibits H, I, J, and K. The Act of April 1, 1887, providing for the sale of school, university, and asylum lands, and for the lease of such lands, entailed upon this office a vast responsibility, placing within the discretion of the Commissioner of the General Land Office more than power sufficient to control the results of such law for good or evil. The object of this law was to secure to the people of the whole State the benefit of their own public lands. What has been accomplished in this direction is here shown. In round numbers there have been sold nearly two million acres of land, or one million acres per annum, adding to the permanent school fund in two years about four and one-half million dollars, or two and one-quarter million dollars per annum. Interest on these sales now furnishes for the available school fund more than two hundred thousand dollars annually.

LEASES.

In round numbers there is now embraced in leases in good standing 8,000,000 acres of public lands, producing a revenue, as shown in Exhibit K, of more than $300,000 per annum, which added to the interest from sales shows as the result of two years operation of this law a fund of more than $500,000 per annum available for public education. One great care has been to so exercise the discretion given the Commissioner of the General Land Office that the public interests should ever be protected and advanced, and at the same time no right or privilege contemplated in the law for any citizen should be abridged or interfered with. The problem in the beginning was how these lease and sales systems should be reconciled or harmonized. After much reflection and study of the question the predicate was laid from the inception for the securement of the harmony desired. Believing confidently that the fertile lands in the west were susceptible of being converted into homes; believing that no force of nature there existed which the industry, perseverence, and genius of the American people could not compass, a rule was prescribed to the classifiers who under the law had to be selected to explore and report on every section of land belonging to the State. This rule was "that all lands fertile and arable, wherever found, should be classified as agricultural." In fact, the classifier furnishing the description, the question as to whether they should be placed upon the market as agricultural or grazing was settled in this office. Under the terms of the law, agricultural lands are for sale whether leased or not, save and except such sections as may have been improved by the lessee to the extent of $100. This left virtually all the lands in the State which were attractive to actual settlers open to them; and the fact that of the sales made within the last two years nearly 500,000 acres, or one-fourth of all the lands sold, were out of leases, is sufficient to demonstrate that the system adopted has been a happy one.

There is no question that settlers seeking homes in the west have manifested a preference for lands that have been leased and enclosed by the lessee. The enormous amount of cancellations and expirations, viz., 2,310,450 acres,

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goes far to establish the claim here made. Lessees whose leases have been invaded by the settler, and the lands bought until the leases were no longer valuable to them, have been permitted to cancel their leases. There is instance after instance where one-half or two-thirds, in some instances three-fourths and more, of all the lands embraced in a given lease have been sold to settlers. Then followed inevitably the cancellation of the lease, which left the remaining lands, whether improved or not, also open to the settler. Of course there are instances where a would-be settler has been prevented from purchasing the section of his choice on account of it being leased and improved, but in comparison to the grand aggregate of numbers accommodated and the general results under the law this is a small matter. In any system such as this it can not be avoided that the individual citizen must occasionally sacrifice his own interest or convenience somewhat for the general good.

But the happiest of all results of this law is the fact that these lands have gone from the State to the citizen who has made his home upon them, and never before in the history of the west has settlement and development been so rapid as in the last two years. The unprecedented number of new counties which have organized demonstrates this. The rapidity of this development is appreciated when it is remembered that for week after week and month after month the receipts of applications to purchase homes from the State have averaged from forty to seventy-five a day. These remarks apply to the school lands, for, just as two years ago, the university lands seemed to be in no demand for purchase. As stated in my former report, these lands were removed from water and are located in the most arid portion of the State.

The recommendations made by me two years ago that the lease price of these lands be reduced to three cents and the term of the lease extended to ten years was adopted by the Legislature. The wisdom of their action is now being demonstrated. Exhibit K shows that there are now leased of the university lands nearly four times as much as two years ago, and recently the indications have been that the demand for these lands is increasing, and it is hoped that before another season passes as large or a larger proportion of these lands than of the school lands will be paying a revenue to the State.

As heretofore stated, the endeavor has been to secure such a classification of the public lands as will keep every section fit for such a purpose open to the home seeker. The classification made I regard as reliable enough for general purposes. Most of the lands that have been classified as grazing will remain the property of the State for a great many years if offered for sale upon the same terms as now. I believe it would be to the interest of the State, and would assist in the development and the conversion to the best use possible—yes, the only use under existing conditions to which it is adapted, viz., stock raising—of vast areas in the extreme west if the law should be so amended as to sell to any purchaser, without actual settlement, any lands classified as grazing. These lands would be purchased largely by the owners of the sections alternating therewith, and sales would be rapid. With a proper limitation as to the amount of land one citizen should be allowed to buy, I feel confident that some such modification of the law as this would advance the interests of the whole State. Section 22 of the Act of April 1, 1887, which section was amended in 1889, provided for the sale without actual settlement of lands in the old counties. This has enabled the State to dispose of a great deal of land which otherwise could not have been sold at all, for the simple reason that, with rare exceptions, they were unfit for cultivation and were not suited to the wants of actual settlers. Now, if lands of this kind can be so disposed of in old counties, where of course land is scarcer, certainly lands more re-

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mote from population and of less value intrinsically might be sold on the same terms and conditions. The proceeds of such sales belonging to the permanent school fund might be invested in lands suitable for homes heretofore alienated by the State.

It must be admitted that the policy of the State in disposing of her public domain has been shortsighted and unwise in that it has permitted, yes, encouraged, the acquirement of large landed estates by individuals and corporations. So recently was this policy abandoned that the land the State now has to offer to the home seeker is comparatively uninviting, a large portion of it in fact absolutely unsafe for a poor man whose family's happiness depends upon what the soil yields to his tillage. I have for two years been profoundly impressed by the hunger for homes of the landless multitudes of our State. So great is this hunger that the bare question, from an authoritative source, of the insufficiency of a given class of grants or titles, that myriads were ready to approve the patriotic exploit and to proceed in utter disregard of the equitable rights, and as far as the courts have passed upon the main questions, in disregard of the legal rights of their fellow citizens.

The Act of April 8, 1889, provided for the lease of the unorganized county school lands. Exhibit K shows that of these the State is now receiving a revenue from half a million acres. The law gives the revenue derived from this source to the common schools In consideration of the present necessities of the University, and in consideration of the fact that the revenue from the unorganized county school land would only last for a short time, because they are being patented rapidly to new counties, I would suggest that the above recited act be so amended as to give to the University the revenue derived from this class of lands. The amount received is a small item for the common schools, but to the University would afford great relief. It is hoped that in one or two years more the University will be deriving from her own lands revenue enough for purposes of current expenditure.

In my former report it was suggested that as pecuniary penalties are sufficient to enforce collection of taxes a similar penalty would insure the requisite promptness in the payment of interest on school lands. Numerous distressing cases had then arisen where, through mere accident or through misfortune, imperative but temporary, many worthy settlers laboring under difficulties to establish homes had forfeited their lands from failure to pay the annual installments of interest due. The Legislature amended the law sufficiently to permit the purchaser who had failed on the day appointed to have his interest in the Treasury to pay a penalty prescribed and save his home. I am persuaded that the interests of the State have not suffered through this modification of the law. Numbers of worthy citizens have been protected from inconvenience and loss.

One of the chief impediments to the settlement of the west is the uncertainty of boundaries. The imperfect manner of making original surveys in that district, where a thousand consecutive sections called for nothing more than a stake and a mound, which mound was never erected and which stake never existed, necessitated on the part of the settler, to establish his corners, an expenditure of more than his scant means could afford. While before the legislative committees in 1887 I called attention to this fact and recommended that a liberal appropriation be made out of the proceeds of lease money or other revenues to resurvey this territory and put up corners to the State lands. My conviction was that the acceleration of sales, when this was accomplished, would more than repay the State in a brief period. This suggestion was not acted upon, however, but something approaching it was achieved in the enactment of the Act of April 2, 1887, providing for the resurvey of

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the public lands and lands alternating therewith. Without expense to the State a vast deal of good has been accomplished through the means of this little statute. Exhibit L shows that under the direction of this office more than nine millions of acres of land have been resurveyed without cost to the State, but involving an expenditure on the part of the owners of the lands alternating with those of the State, I am informed, of about $200,000. It is noted that where these resurveys have been made and doubts as to boundaries thereby removed, or rather boundaries established free for the settler, sales of school lands have been most rapid. It is to be hoped that some method may be devised whereby this policy can be pursued; but it is feared that very little more of this kind of work will be done without expense to the State. The Act of March 22, 1889, together with the Act of 1887 just referred to, besides securing permanency and certainty of boundary, has enabled this office to discover and secure to the common school fund the amount of 35,630 acres of land, which is worth more perhaps than the expenses of conducting this office for the last two years. And when it is remembered that this land now goes on the abstracts for purposes of perpetual taxation the benefit of this to the State is better appreciated.

My first official report two years ago was concluded in these words: "The hope is confidently expressed that the Legislature will carefully scrutinize and review the subjects of public lands and titles with a view of correcting the errors and omissions of past laws, and of the executors thereof, and upon a basis which recognizes good faith and honesty of intention on the part of the person dealing with the State, to take such action as will heal the omissions, do full justice, remove apprehension and uncertainty, and give the world that confidence that is essential to the interests of our own people and the reputation of the State." It was a matter of intense gratification that the Legislature, apparently in response to this suggestion, passed such laws as were recommended to secure this end. These laws gave to no creature a single right, privilege, or claim he was not already entitled to from every consideration of justice, equity, and good faith. The State alienated thereby no acre of land which had not been attempted in good faith to be secured in strict accordance with the State's own laws. These acts removed the cloud from the title of thousands of homesteads of worthy citizens, notably in Wilbarger County, where it saved the school land homes of a majority of the settlers. It saved the homestead on hundreds of pre-emptions made a generation ago, the title to which contained no defect except that the poor man who first entered the land was under a misapprehension as to which surveyor had jurisdiction of the territory. With these laws was established that faith in Texas and her future which gave promise of unprecedented activity. Every other condition being then ripe for it, it was with confidence that I indulged the hope that Texas was upon the eve of an era of prosperity unparalleled in her own history or the history of any other commonwealth in this union of States.

These hopes, however, have not been realized. I regret to say that much has occurred with reference to our land titles to disturb, yes, almost to destroy, the world's confidence therein. Community after community, section after section of our State might be cited which felt the shock as soon as it came, and in less than three days the paralysis caused was visible even on the public streets. I refer here to certain litigation engaged in by the State herself, promising to the State, however, no reward, no recovery from any source, unless she were willing to rob those who had placed confidence in her and in the acts performed in good faith of her highest officers. First, in the name of the State a suit was brought claiming for the school fund half of

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all the land located by virtue of certificates since the adoption of the present Constitution. The statement was calmly made in an official report from a government department that one contingency of the result of this suit would be the recovery of 20,000,000 acres of land. From whom was to be this recovery? The logic of this suit, if logic it possessed, was that the Constitution of 1876 created a sacred reservation, and that all locations made therein are void for the reason that the portion of the public domain then existing donated by the Constitution to the public schools had not been segregated. In other words, that half of every pre-emption, half of every headright, half of every Confederate certificate, all of every land warrant donated to the Texas veterans under recent laws, as well as half of every railroad certificate, belongs to-day to the school fund. The impressian prevailed and does yet, because a railroad happened by accident or careful selection to be defendant in the suit brought to test this questson, that only railroad lands were involved. Be it remembered now that the official report of the Comptroller at the date of filing this suit showed that of all the 38,000,000 acres of land granted to railroads nine-tenths had been alienated. Now again I ask from whom was this recovery to be made? From thousands and tens of thousands of our own citizens and from thousands of the citizens of other States. The impression was also carried with this litigation, and exists among the less enlightened people of the State to-day, that it was through the negligent or corrupt connivance of every administration of the State government since 1876 that the State had been despoiled of these lands.

More destructive still perhaps of that confidence of the world essential to the prosperity of Texas is the more recent suit brought under the claim that the Act of 1854, passed for the encouragement of the construction of railroads in Texas by donations of land, has been misconstrued by every administration of the State from that day until the present time, and it is plead now before the courts that under the said act a certificate being issued in part or in whole for "necessary turnouts" makes the certificate in question void. This means, as shown by the records of this department, that the State now claims and is attempting to recover perhaps four-fifths of all the lands ever granted to railroad companies. From whom is this recovery?

The Comptroller's report shows that when this suit was filed the railroads had alienated about twenty-nine thirtieths of all the land donated to them by the State. With this suit goes the impression similar to that in the other, that all the Governors of Texas from 1854 to 1890 (36 years), including Pease, Houston, Lubbock, and Coke, have been indifferent or negligent, incompetent or corrupt. Under this law it was the duty of the Governor, through agents selected by himself, to determine the quantity of lands to which railroads were entitled. The record shows this was done. This suit is still pending. Why it has been continued till now this office is not informed, but in consideration of the apprehension it produced, the unrest and dismay it caused, certainly no trivial matter should have been permitted to interfere with its speedy adjudication Contemplate the vast interests involved in all this litigation, perhaps not less than 40,000,000 acres of land, every acre of which was alienated in strict accordance with the State's own statutes as construed, by the acceptance on the part of the citizens of the world of the State's own proposition, made through her law makers The State, according to her own terms, has received all the compensation she asked for every acre. The State has been levying taxes on this land for thirty-five years and less.

Such wholesale spoliation was never proposed by any civilized government on earth. Such a gigantic recovery without at least a recommendation for compensation was never proposed perhaps by any of God's creatures. Such

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extensive dispossession certainly has not been seen since the northern hordes repeopled the Roman Empire. A more remorseless plunder has scarce been witnessed since the wandering Hebrews located in the Promised Land, and scarce less merciful were they in that they exterminated the former owners of the soil rather than spare them to an impoverished existence. In this case there is no such sanction as a Divine command such as the aforesaid Hebrews had—no such authority; and if any justification exists whatever the courts of last resort in Texas have as yet given no indication. In so far as the litigation has been final not one acre has been recovered, and after all the loss, apprehension, arrest of progress and development, destruction of values, individual bankruptcies too numerous for reference here, and the loss of the confidence of the world, the State perhaps will not possess even the meagre justification of a legal technicality.

This subject is alluded to at length to the end that some method may be devised to protect the interests of the people and the reputation of the State from indiscreet and inordinate official activity. It is safe, I trust, to indulge the presumption that the people's representatives soon to assemble need nothing more than to have their attention called to the subject of this last suit to secure such action on their part as will confirm to the equitable owners all lands affected thereby.

As for the other suit mentioned, the Supreme Court has already settled it; and it is hoped that the material interests of the people will in time recover from all the recent novel constructions of ancient laws and constitutions. Early action by the Legislature would perhaps do something toward arresting that stagnation, that paralysis, which seems to be seizing upon every industry, every commercial interest, every enterprise in our State

In view of my early retirement from the public service, and in view of whatever has been accomplished that is useful and beneficial to the State, I can not refrain from testifying my appreciation and acknowledging my obligation to my faithful fellow servants in this department. When I took charge on January 18, 1887, I brought with me a Chief Clerk and a Receiver of my own selection, selected, the first because of all my acquaintances I thought none more worthy, faithful, and efficient than R. C. Shelley. It is sufficient in his case to say that I now regard myself as well as the State as fortunate in the choice made. Not less emphatic is the testimony I would give as to the faithfulness and efficiency of O. N. Hollingsworth, who has been Receiver during my whole term of office.

I then regarded it as my duty as a public servant to recognize the worthiness of every man whom I found employed in this office, and it is a matter of satisfaction to reflect that every change made by me was intended purely in the interest of the public service. I never regarded clerkships in this office as personal perquisites. In an office like this safety and happy results are peculiarly dependent upon the capability, fidelity, and experience of the clerks; and I claim generally for the force now employed here pre-eminence in these attributes. It is with feelings of genuine gratitude that I shall ever remember the zealous and faithful assistance of such men as Pressler, De Bray, Laurence, Calloway, Calhoun, and dozens of others not less deserving. With these faithful men I would divide equally, share and share alike, anything of praise or commendation we may have earned.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. M. HALL,
Commissioner.

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EXHIBITS.

EXHIBIT A.

Showing Claims Patented, with Number of Acres Embraced, from September 1, 1888, to August 31, 1890.

Character of claims.	No. of files.	No. of acres.
First class	139	298,896
Capitol lands	70	310,008
Second class	19	6,005
Third class	109	25,629
Pre-emptions	1,348	174,797
Bounty	28	8,849
Donation	332	144,835
University lands	128	17,181
School lands	1,563	620,688
Asylum lands	147	21,666
Miscellaneous scrip	78	27,367
Confederate scrip	134	94,271
Sale scrip	317	42,567
Railroad scrip	2,165	1,323,201
Total	6,577	3,115,960

EXHIBIT B.

Number and Denomination of Certificates, with Quantity of Land, issued from this Office beginning September 1, 1888, and ending August 31, 1890.

No. of certif. issued.	Character of claim.	No. of acres.
1	Special act certificate	1,280

EXHIBIT C.

Report of Returns beginning September 1, 1888, and ending August 31, 1890.

Class.	No. of files.	No. of acres.
Donation	379	158,910
Pre-emption	1,586	192,426
Sale scrip under act of March 29, 1887	527	42,381
Scrip, alternate, etc	164	73,384
School land (sales)	4,553	1,932,784
University and asylum land (sales)	199	41,475
Totals	7,408	2,441,360

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EXHIBIT D.

Showing liabilities of the State on the Public Domain.

	Acres.	Acres.
Estimated area of the State exclusive of bays		170,881,280
Liabilities existing August 31, 1888		171,280,156
Increase by special act certificate		1,280
		171,281,436
Deduct veteran donation certificates not returned within five years and barred by constitutional limitation	31,145	
Do. Confederate scrip, individual part	703,105	
Do. Confederate scrip, State part	686,575	1,420,825
Total liabilities this date		169,860,611
Excess of public domain over liabilities		1,020,669

EXHIBIT E.

Showing Certificates issued to Railway Companies.

	Acres.
60,322½ certificates for 640 acres each issued to railroad companies	38,606,400
360½ sections surveyed for Southern Pacific Railroad Company, under Act January 30, 1854, for which certificates were not issued	230,720
Total to railroad companies	38,837,120

EXHIBIT F.

Showing Certificates issued to Other Internal Improvement Companies.

336 certificates 320 acres each, 7845 certificates 640 acres each	5,128,320

EXHIBIT G.

Showing Certificates issued to Railroad Companies and other Internal Improvement Companies Barred by Constitutional Limitation for Non-Return to General Land Office within Five Years.

	Acres.
6134½ certificates issued to railroad companies	3,926,080
209½ certificates 640 acres each, 24 certificates 320 acres each, issued to other internal improvement companies	141,760
Total	4,067,840

EXHIBIT H.

Sales for the Two Years Ending August 31, 1890.

	Acres.
School	1,932,784
University	8,481
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	12,437
Orphan Asylum	7,555
Lunatic Asylum	3,920
Blind Asylum	9,082
Total	1,974,259

In addition to the above the timber on 40,690 acres of land was sold.

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EXHIBIT I.

Acres Leased and in Good Standing August 31, 1888.

	Acres.
Public Free School	6,327,966
University	77,437
Blind Asylum	200
Orphan Asylum	164
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	960
Total	6,406,727

EXHIBIT J.

Acres Leased and in Good Standing from September 1 to August 31, 1890.

	No. leased.	Cancellations and expirations.	Sales.	Gain.
Public free school	3,557,707	2,310,450	444,799	802,458
University	262,880	92,320	.....	170,560
Blind Asylum	640	.....	.....	640
Orphan Asylum	160	160	.....	.....
Unorganized county school	516,476	.....	.....	516,476
Total	4,337,863	2,402,930	444,799	1,490,134

EXHIBIT K.

Total Acres Leased and in Good Standing August 31, 1890.

	Acres.	Rate of rent per acre.	Total amount of rent.
Public free school	7,130,434	4 cents	$285,216 96
University	247,997	3 cents	7,439 91
Blind Asylum	840	4 cents	33 60
Orphan Asylum	164	4 cents	6 56
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	960	4 cents	38 40
Unorganized county school	516,476	2 cents	10,329 52
Total	7,896,861		$303,064 95

EXHIBIT L.

Showing Number of Surveys, and Acres Resurveyed under the Act of 1887.

Kind of surveys.	No. surveys.	Acres.
Railroad	8,877	4,628,986
School	8,903	4,668,738

EXHIBIT M.

Number of acres of excess discovered by resurveys aforesaid, and secured to school fund by virtue of the Act of 1889 ..... 35,630 acres

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SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
AUSTIN, TEXAS, January 19, 1891.

To His Excellency L. S. Ross, Governor:

SIR—I have the honor to call your attention to the accompanying statements which show the main transactions of this office from September 1, 1890, to and inclusive of the present date. This shows what has been done of chief interest to the public since August 31, 1890, the date concluding my biennial report dated September 1, 1890, which was transmitted to you a few days ago. These tables show that the business of this department has been heavy for several months past. It shows that the desire of citizens to lease the public lands is rather greater at present than heretofore. The fact that applications are now in the office for the lease of 648,960 acres of university lands, upon which it is hoped payment will be made in a few days, is a most gratifying indication.

Exhibit D shows that since August 31 last 103,680 acres additional of university lands have been leased. When the 648,960 acres above referred to, upon which payments have not yet been made, shall have been leased, the University will then be enjoying a revenue from about one-half of all the lands set apart for its support.

The work of preparing statements of accounts on lands purchased under the Act of July 8, 1879, has been completed. These are delinquent accounts upon which interest is due and unpaid. As directed by section 12 of said act I have transmitted to the proper district attorneys statements of those accounts, to the end that suit may be brought for collection of same. Recently parties have been paying up for these lands very rapidly, but there remains more than two thousand accounts upon which interest is due and unpaid.

Respectfully,

R. M. HALL, Commissioner.

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EXHIBITS.

EXHIBIT A.

Showing new Returns from September 1, 1890 to January 19, 1891, inclusive.

Class.	No. Files.	No. Acres.
Donation	98	35,250
Pre-emption	345	44,800
Scrip	163	33,704

EXHIBIT B.

Giving statement of Claims Patented, from September 1, 1890 to January 19, 1891, inclusive.

Character of claim.	No. Files.	No. Acres.
First class	26	99,785
Second class	1	312
Third class	5	1,593
Bounty	2	3,200
Donation	101	49,663
Pre-emption	155	18,965
Sale scrip	90	28,111
Railroad scrip	377	229,871
Confederate scrip	95	66,646
Miscellaneous scrip	48	26,132
Capitol lands	1	246
School lands	251	117,834
Asylum lands	44	7,006
University lands	4	427
Total	1,200	649,791

EXHIBIT C.

Sales of School, University, and Asylum Lands, and Timber on School Lands from August 31, 1890, to January 19, 1891, inclusive.

	Acres.
School	688,856
University	201
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	640
Orphan Asylum	320
Blind Asylum	400
Timber only (on school lands)	8,156
Total	698,573

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EXHIBIT D.

Statement of Lands Leased from September 1, 1890, to January 19, 1891, inclusive.

	Acres Leased.	Cancellations and Expirations.	Sales.	Gain.
Public free school	1,080,481	404,195	255,074	421,212
University	107,520	3,840	.....	103,680
Total	1,188,001	408,035	255,074	524,892

In addition to the above payments have been made on leases not yet executed, Treasurer's receipts for which were received yesterday and to-day to the amount of 22,976 acres of school lands.

EXHIBIT E.

Statement of Lands Awarded during the past thrity days, payments upon which have not yet been made.

	Acres.
Public Free School	227,340
University	648,960
Total	876,300

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